sugarcane growers and also put them to great difficulties;

(c) the reasons for withholding such an amount specially when the demand for sugar has increased; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government to such a situation?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by sugar factories, the position of arrears of cane price relating to the current season 1994-95 as on 15.6.1995 were about Rs. 442.44 crores which represents 6.12% of the total cane price payable.

(c) Delay in the payment of cane price could be attributed to a number of factors, such as poor financial position of the sugar mill, high cost of production, high State-advised cane price, inadequate sales realisation, etc.

(d) Ensuring timely payment of cane price by the sugar factories is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments who have got the necessary powers and field organisations to enforce such payments. Central Government has requested the State Governments to take necessary steps to liquidate the cane price arrears.

Bad Debts Reserve of Super Bazar

874. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of bad debts reserve of Super Bazar as on 31st October, 1994, branch-wise;

(b) the total amount written off as bad debts by each of the above Super Bazar branches up to 31st October, 1994 under compromise proposal; and

(c) to total number of classified sick and loss making branches and the advances to them by each of above branches of Super Bazar as on 31st October, 1994?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) It has been reported by Super Bazar that as on 31.3.94, the total amount of reserve for doubtful debts was Rs.55.28 lakhs. Super Bazar maintains accounts for financial year and doubtful debt accounts are not maintained branchwise.

(b) Super Bazar has reported that an amount of Rs.11.92 lakhs was written off as debt during 1989-90 and that no other amount has been written off as bad debt in any other year.

(c) Super Bazar has reported that they do not have as system of inter branch advances. It has been reported that five branches and six medicine outlets have been closed down on the basis of a review of sale performance and viability.

Profit Limit on Consumer Items

875. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the issue of fixing a profit limit on consumer items charged by manufacturers has been referred by Government to a panel;

(b) if so, the terms of reference and detail of the panel;

(c) whether any time frame has been given to the panel for submission of report; and

(d) if so, the details thereof

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (d) An expert Committee has been constituted by the Ministry under The Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977 to recommend the best method of declaring the sale price on

package. Though control of price of commodities is not within the ambit of the said Rules, the issue of fixing the profit margin limits for consumer articles was referred to the said Committee. The Committee felt that the profit element is a complicated issue and vary from product to product. Hence the issue should appropriately be looked into by the concerned administrative Ministries.

शीतल पेयों पर उत्पाद शुल्क में छूट

876. **प्रो० विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा:** क्या नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या इस वर्ष के बजट में कोका कोला और पेप्सी कोला सहित शीतल पेयों पर उत्पाद -शुल्क में छूट दी गई थी,

(ख) यदि हां, तो यह छूट कितनी थी,

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि छूट के पश्चात् कोका कोला और पेप्सी कोला की कीमतों में कमी करने की बजाय उनकी कीमतों में वृद्धि कर दी गई है, और

(घ) सरकार ने उनके विरुद्ध क्या कार्रवाई की है?

नागरिक पूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री (श्री बूटा सिंह): (क) और (ख) वित्त मंत्रालय ने सूचित किया है कि 1995-96 के बजट में वातित जल पर उत्पाद शुल्क 50% से घटा कर 40% कर दिया गया है।

(ग) और (घ) खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्रालय, जो शीतल पेयों के संबंध में प्रशासकीय मंत्रालय है, ने सूचित किया है कि 1995-96 के बजट में शीतल पेयों पर उत्पाद शुल्क में रियायत की घोषणा के बाद इनके मूल्य कम नहीं हुए हैं। उन्होंने यह भी सूचित किया है कि उन्होंने शीतल पेय के विनिर्माताओं तथा बोतल भरने वालों के साथ एक बैठक की थी और उन पर दबाव डाला कि वे घोषित की गई शुल्क रियायतों के लाभ उपभोक्ताओं को दें।

MOU Signed by DGFT with Car Manufacturers

877. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Director General of Foreign Trade has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with some car manufacturers;

(b) if so, the details of Memorandum of Understanding; and

(c) whether Government have taken any measures to ensure that the sale prices of the proposed cars are within the range of Indian buyers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Two Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) one with M/s. DCM-Daswos Motors Ltd., and the other with M/s. Kalyan Motors Company Ltd., have been signed. These MoUs would enable these companies to obtain licences to import assemblies/sub-assemblies in CKD/SKD form. Details regarding levels of indigenisation, setting up of manufacturing facilities, out-flow of foreign exchange on account of such imports and in-flow of foreign exchange on account of equity contribution by the foreign company and exports were incorported in these MoUs.

(c) There is no statutory control on prices of vehicles, including cars. It is expected that with the availability of a wide range of models of cars, market competition will keep a check on prices of new cars.